



# 2012 Workers' Compensation Summit: Working Together for a Better Minnesota

**Day one: Tues., June 12**

11:30 a.m to 1 p.m. Registration

1 to 1:15 p.m. Opening remarks by Commissioner Ken Peterson, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

1:15 to 2:15 p.m. Opening session – **The Long Road Ahead: Minnesota's Changing Economy**, Kyle Uphoff, Regional Analysis and Outreach Manager, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

*Minnesota's labor market is in recovery. However, the expansion is not necessarily lifting all boats. While some occupations are in demand, others may not ever recover, while still others will be transformed – requiring new skills and knowledge areas. The recovery is taking place against a backdrop of factors known (such as demographic change) and unknown (such as globalization and technology). The recession and these other factors will set the course of the labor market in the coming decade and require our state to make difficult choices regarding its priorities.*

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Breakout sessions

1. **2010 Minnesota Workers' Compensation System Report**, David Berry, Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Statistics

*Highlights from the 2010 Minnesota Workers' Compensation System Report.*

2. **Legal Update**, Jay Hartman and Tom Mottaz, Workers' Compensation Attorneys

*Discussion of recent judicial decisions impacting workers' compensation.*

3. **The 10 Most Frequently Asked Questions About the WCRA**, Carl "Buzz" Cummins, President and CEO, Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association

*Ten important things about WCRA every participant in the workers' compensation system should know.*

4. **Opioids, Prescription Medications and Addiction**, Tim Grathwol, JD, LADC, Vinland National Center

*Vinland National Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to people with disabilities. Among other things, it provides drug and alcohol treatment for adults with disabilities, outpatient mental health, vocational services and permanent supportive housing for adults with disabilities in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Vinland is a fully accredited substance abuse treatment center licensed by the state of Minnesota.*

3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Breakout sessions

1. **DLI's Settlement Study**, Brian Zaidman, Senior Research Analyst, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Statistics

*For nearly a century, workers' compensation administrators, economists and legal experts have debated whether workers' compensation claims settlements provide a fair and adequate resolution to workers' compensation claims. This spring, DLI conducted a large-scale survey of injured workers with settlements and with hearings decisions to address some of the issues concerning settlements. Do workers feel pressured to settle their claims? Are they comfortable with their outcomes? Do they think the system is fair? How have workers fared after the settlement or hearing decision? A summary of the results will be discussed as well as what can we learn from the survey results to improve Minnesota's workers' compensation system.*

2. **Lumbar Fusion Surgery: Concerns and Controversies**, Dr. Bill Lohman, Medical Consultant, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

*A review of the indications for lumbar fusion surgery, the effectiveness of fusion surgery and alternatives to surgery.*

3. **Post-deployment Distress: Challenges for Returning Veterans and Employers**, Julie Holewa, MS, CRC, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Department of Veterans Affairs

*A discussion about education, insight and training with regard to veterans' barriers to employment when returning home from deployment. Learn how employers and service providers can help. The presentation includes education about programs, tools and practices that can assist veterans during this transition.*

4. **Indemnity Benefits: Are There Inequities That Need to be Fixed?** A panel moderated by Deputy Commissioner Kris Eiden, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, with Workers' Compensation Attorneys Jay Hartman, Tom Mottaz, Charlene Feenstra and Mike Scully

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dinner general session

**Effectively Working Together: Personality Types and Styles**, Michael Monroe Kiefer, Ph.D.

*Everyone has been in situations where personalities seem to harmonize naturally and other situations where people just clash. Why does this happen? Is there anything we can do? In this entertaining keynote presentation attendees can gain a greater understanding of people's unique styles and learn how to harmonize better with people who are psychologically very different from themselves. See who is irritating whom and how it can be prevented for high-performance teams.*

## Day two: *Wed., June 13*

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast general session

**Workers' Compensation: A National View**, Gregory Krohm, Ph.D., Past Executive Director, International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC)

*This presentation will describe the interplay between forces that cause workers' compensation laws to vary so greatly from state to state and those that produce similarities across states. Trends in law reforms since 2006 and hot issues in the administration of systems will be discussed, as well as:*

- *medical cost escalation and cost containment measures;*
- *health care reform and workers' compensation; and*
- *the opioid epidemic and state WC responses.*

*Finally, emerging forces that will influence the direction of workers' compensation for the decade ahead will be addressed.*

9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Breakout sessions

1. **Judges Unplugged**, a panel moderated by Kate Berger, General Counsel, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Office of General Counsel, with Chief Judge Patricia J. Milun, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and Administrative Law Judges Rolf G. Hagen, Danny P. Kelly and Peggy A. Brenden

*The judges will speak about their experiences and give their perspective about workers' compensation.*

2. **Preventing Workplace Violence**, Vikki Sanders, Principal Safety Consultant, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

*Workplace violence, it's not worth taking a chance*

- *Defining workplace violence*
- *The four categories of workplace violence*
- *The importance of communication and reporting*
- *Determining if you are at risk*
- *The warning signs of potential workplace violence*
- *How to prepare for a potentially violent situation*
- *How to use verbal techniques to de-escalate situations*
- *How body language can escalate or de-escalate a situation*

3. **Workers' Compensation Medical Costs: Searching for a Cure**, a panel moderated by Commissioner Ken Peterson, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, with Bruce Tollefson, President, Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association; Bob Lund, President and CEO, State Fund Mutual Insurance Company; and David Borgert, Director of Community and Government Relations, CentraCare Health Systems

4. **Stress Reduction and Healthy Lifestyle**, Michael Monroe Kiefer, Ph.D.

*In this session, participants will learn common everyday factors that contribute to high stress and how to reduce them. Most people are simply not aware of how their mood and energy levels are negatively affected in the workplace and at home. Recent research from the Rochester Institute will also be shared about how the immune system and hormone fingerprint are affected by stress, along with easy to follow daily goals for diet and exercise.*

11 a.m. to noon

Breakout sessions

1. **Retraining Review**, a panel moderated by Mark McCrea, Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Alternative Dispute Resolution, with Kathy Bray, Attorney, Lynn, Scharfenberg & Associates, Staff Counsel for SFM Companies; Robert C. Falsani, Founding Partner, Falsani, Balmer, Peterson, Quinn & Beyer; Steve Hollander, Qualified Rehabilitation Consultant, Vocational Rehabilitation Associates; Don Ostenson, Qualified Rehabilitation Consultant, Vocational Restoration Services; Suzanne Hiltner, Placement Specialist, Hiltner Placement Services; and Maureen Ziezulewicz, Independent Vocational Evaluator, ALARIS Group

*Discussion of current issues regarding rehabilitation.*

2. **Navigating the Bermuda Triangle: FMLA, ADA and Workers' Compensation**, Penelope J. Phillips, Attorney, Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon & Vogt

*This session will address the conflicting purposes and overlapping obligations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and Medical Leave Act and state workers' compensation statutes.*

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4. **Treating Chronic Pain**, Dr. Matthew Monsein, M.D., Pain Management Specialist, Courage Center

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch general session

**Current Issues Facing Workers' Compensation in Minnesota**, a panel with members of the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Advisory Council: David Olson, President, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce; Ed Reynoso, Policital Director, Teamsters Joint Council 32; and Ken Peterson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry